

From the Divine Office for the First Sunday of Great Lent

Truly did the prophets bear fruits of eternal life as they announced God, preaching You by their words and honoring You by their deeds. O Master and Creator, they would not worship creation instead of You, but renounced the world as the Gospels command and suffered Your very passion they had prophesied. Through their intercession, make us ready to pass without blame over the battlefield of the Fast, O You who alone are most merciful. (Vespers)

Representing Your divine face on icons, O Christ, we openly sing of Your Nativity, Your radiant miracles and Your freely accepted Crucifixion. The demons are cast out and terrified, while the impious lament. (Orthros)



**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
FEBRUARY 21, 2021**



RESTORATION OF THE ICONS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (3rd)

1: The Lord is King, in splendor robed; robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

2: Who can tell the mighty deeds of the Lord, or proclaim all His praises?

Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.

3: Thus, let the redeemed of the Lord say, those whom He has redeemed from the hand of the foe.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.

People: O Son of God, Who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5, pg.40)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation, for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion of the Holy Icons (Tone 2)

Before Your most pure image, we bow in worship, O Good One, begging forgiveness of our stumbling, Christ God: because You chose of Your own free will to ascend upon the cross in the flesh in order to deliver from the enemy's yoke those You had created. For this reason, we cry out to You in thanksgiving: "You our Savior have filled all things with joy when You came to save the world."

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone 1, Pg 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8)

We your servants ascribe to you, O Mother of God, thank offerings of victory, O Champion Leader, for we have been liberated from terror. But since you have that invincible power, do you free us from danger, so that we may cry out to you, "Hail, O Virgin and Bride ever pure!"

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Today, the first Sunday of Great Lent, is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy. It was on this day that the iconoclastic controversy which caused division in the Church during the 8th and 9th centuries, was laid to rest and icons and their veneration were restored to their rightful place. The argument as to whether or not the veneration of icons was considered idol worship had gone on for over 100 years. There were those who believed that icons were a form of idolatry (Iconoclasts) and those (Iconophiles) who believed that icons were a way of preserving the Church's doctrine through art, especially in a society where many citizens could not read. The Church's teaching relative to icons was proclaimed at the seventh ecumenical council in Nicaea in 787 where it was decreed that icons were to be venerated but not worshipped. The Fathers of this ecumenical council said,

We define that the holy icons, whether in colour, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honour (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands.

On the first Sunday of Lent in the year 843A.D., the Empress Theodora, her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. This is the basis for our having a procession with the icons on this Sunday.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP. Requested by Tom Syseskey
+Philip, Eva & George Jordan. Requested by Lorna Abdow Malooley

Feb 28 +Josephine Chebib Yanni. Requested by Jeanette Halal & Family

GOD WITH US ONLINE SERIES

DYING TO SIN

The First Steps in Askesis

Mondays, February 22, March 1 & 8 @ 8 - 9 p.m. ET
Register at godwithusonline.org

Instructor - Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses

Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is a graduate of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary and now works as a full time high school theology teacher at Bishop Guertin High School and a per diem chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in nearby Nashua, NH. Some of his written work can be found on Catholic Exchange.



Last Week's Collection

Regular	\$1,428
Stole	\$ 470
Candles	\$ 40
Memorials	\$ 150
Total	\$2,088

God bless you for your generosity!

This Week's Lenten Services

Mon. 2/22 @ 6PM Great Compline

Wed. 2/24@6PM Presanctified Liturgy

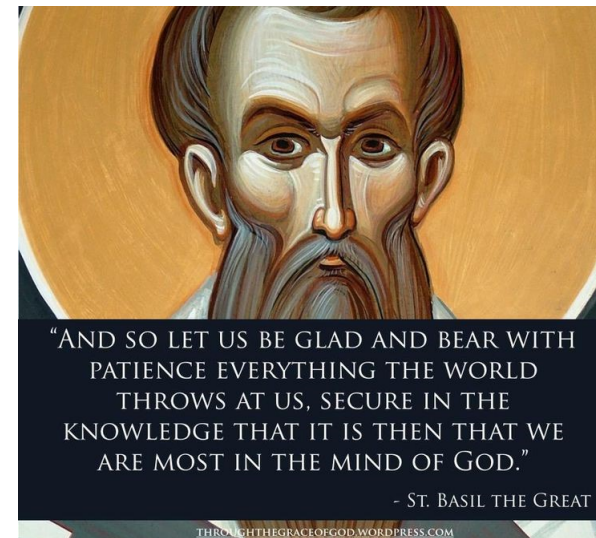
Fri. 2/26@6pm Little Compline w/Akathist Hymn

Sun 2/28@10AM Second Sunday of Great. Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas.

If we have to cancel a service, we will send an email to the email list and put a post on our Facebook page.

Fr. Bryan is available for confessions after each Lenten service, on Saturdays from 10AM-Noon, and by appointment.

Please remember in your prayers the people of Texas who are suffering through uncharacteristically harsh winter weather, especially our brothers and sisters of St. Barbara Melkite Mission in Houston.





Mystery of Icons

Introduction into the Theology and Spirituality of the Icon in the Byzantine Tradition

(February 22 - March 6, 3:00 - 4:45 PM EST)

A short, but intensive course on the history, theology and spirituality of icons. We will trace the development of Eastern Christian iconographic tradition through its main stages, look at its most remarkable phenomena, and try to understand theological and spiritual appeal of icons through the ages.

To learn more about this Free Course, hosted by the ECF Office of Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and how to join it either live or watch its recordings please visit:

https://sites.google.com/view/mysteryoficons-coursesite/home?fbclid=IwAR36zRYuBhrxnykpgxOquTckCV9QaZLYOI5r9pqB_tfRvOxHQIW9EUWaqLw

Prokimenon

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever

Verse: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers,

People: And Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever

Epistle: Heb. 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2

Alleluia Verses

Moses and Aaron were among His priests and Samuel among those who called upon His Name.

Verse: They called upon the Lord, and He answered them; from the pillar of cloud, He spoke to them.

Gospel: Jn.1:43-51, Sunday of Orthodoxy

Special Petitions for the Ecumenic Prayer (Inserted after the third petition)

- For all your people who have proven positive with the coronavirus, that they may be restored to full health and offer you their praise and thanksgiving, we pray to you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus that they may be granted rest with the Saints and the mercy of God in the Heavenly Kingdom, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For doctors, nurses, and all in health care, risking their lives to minister to those afflicted with the coronavirus, that they remain safe, and in good health as they serve others, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all your people in Lebanon who were hurt during the disastrous explosion, that they may be restored to full health, and for those who died that they may be granted rest among the Saints, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For peace throughout the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

HIRMOS of Saint Basil (Tone 3)

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the human race as well: O Sanctified Temple, Spiritual Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, from whom our God, who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child! He has taken your womb as His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, Full of Grace, in you all creation rejoices: glory to you!